

IN HONOR OF COACH BOBBY L.
WRIGHT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, Jr.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor, commend and extend personal congratulations to my friend of long-standing and my brother in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Coach Bobby L. Wright. Coach Wright, the beloved and renowned former Head Coach and Athletic Director at Central High School in Phenix City, Alabama, recently retired after 44 years as a highly respected coach, mentor and consultant. A retirement celebration was held in his honor on Friday, July 2, 2021 at Green Island Country Club in Columbus, Georgia.

Bobby L. Wright graduated from Buena Vista High School in Marion County, Georgia in 1970 and from Fort Valley State College (now Fort Valley State University) in 1974. The following year, he began his stellar teaching and coaching careers at Carver High School in Columbus, Georgia serving as the Head Coach for track and Assistant Coach for football and basketball. In 1977, he was recruited and hired across the Chattahoochee River at Central High School in Phenix City, Alabama where he taught, coached, and chaired the Health and Physical Education Department. There, for 12 years he served as an Assistant Coach under the tutelage of famed Coach James Redd before taking over as the Head Coach.

During his impressive 32-year tenure as Head Coach for the Central High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team, "The Red Devils" he amassed an incredible record of achievement: 4 State Championship game appearances; 8 semi-final appearances; 26 playoff appearances; and winning 8 region titles and 23 area titles. Coach Wright had a 671–221 won-loss record with his 600th win being against archrival Auburn High School in 2017. Concurrently, he served as the Defensive Coordinator for the Central High School football team for 26 years, including in 1993 when they won the Alabama State High School Football Championship title. In addition to that, Coach Wright served as the school's Athletic Director from 1998 until his retirement earlier this year.

Aristotle once said, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." Coach Wright was an educator of both. He is rooted in the belief that children need tough love as well as encouragement. As such, he was known for his discipline-first approach when coaching basketball, football, and track. He used this firm coaching style to motivate the athletes under his direction to do their best and met them with laughter and support even if they missed the mark.

Coach Wright has received countless awards and commendations for his achievements and accomplishments as a coach and educator, including a resolution on January 21, 2021 approved by the Phenix City Alabama Board of Education honoring his long and exemplary service to the Phenix City School system. But none is more impressive than his 2014 induction into the Alabama High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coach Wright has accomplished much in his life but none of it would have been possible

without the grace of God; the love and support of his wife of almost three decades, Carolyn; his family, students and the communities in Georgia and Alabama, to which he has given so much.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation, our heartfelt congratulations and our best wishes to Coach Bobby L. Wright upon the occasion of his retirement after an outstanding 44 years impacting the lives of the countless people he has touched.

HONORING PAUL L. WILLIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Colonel Paul L. Willis from Edwards, Mississippi.

Colonel Willis graduated from Utica Junior College in 1977 and from Alcorn State University, in Lorman, Mississippi, in May 1979, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology. In May 1989, Colonel Willis received his Master of Science Degree in Education from Chicago State University.

Colonel Willis was a Distinguished Military Graduate of the ROTC program at Alcorn, and in May 1979, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Transportation Corps. He attended numerous military schools during his career, culminating with the Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

Colonel Willis retired from active duty on August 1, 2004 after serving over 25 years. He assumed his current position as Director of Army Instruction at Jackson Public Schools, on July 1, 2004. During his active duty career, Colonel Willis served in locations across the U.S. and overseas, including the 1st Persian Gulf War, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and he held a variety of command and staff positions. Most notably, he served as a commander of soldiers at every level in the Army from Platoon, Company, Battalion, Brigade and culminating as Commander, Eastern Region (ROTC), U.S. Army Cadet Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

As Director of Army Instruction at Jackson Public Schools, Colonel Willis provides leadership and oversight for the largest JROTC program in the State of Mississippi, which has an average enrollment exceeding 1,800 cadets. The units achieve an average high school graduation rate of 95 percent and nearly 100 percent of graduates are formally accepted to post high school institutions of higher learning, with annual scholarship offerings averaging \$3.5 million.

Colonel Willis has received numerous military awards including the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Bronze Star Medal. He also received the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal for his selection as U.S. Army Cadet Command Director of Army Instruction of the Year for 2013, the Mississippi Magnolia Cross, was inducted into the inaugural class of U.S. Army Cadet Command ROTC Hall of Fame in June 2016, and the 2019 Andrew

Jackson Council Boy Scouts of America Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award. In 2020, The Clarion Ledger Newspaper recognized him as a Community Hero and the U.S. Army Transportation Corps inducted him as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment.

Colonel Willis is married to the former Dorothea Torry of Utica, Mississippi, and they have two adult sons and six grandchildren. The Willis' currently reside in Utica, MS and they are the Owners/Operators of Gazebo Lake Ranch.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Colonel Paul L. Willis for his passion and dedication for success and desire to make a difference in the community.

**IN RECOGNITION OF BERYL
GEDDES**

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Beryl Geddes of Blair County, Pennsylvania as she celebrates her 100th birthday. Mrs. Geddes is a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother.

Born on July 9, 1921 in Altoona, Pennsylvania, Beryl graduated from Tyrone High School in 1939 and married Chester Geddes the following year. Beryl traveled across the country with her husband during his time in the military and later returned home to Tyrone, Pennsylvania, where she worked.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Beryl Geddes on this very special birthday and wish her many more happy, healthy years to come.

IN MEMORY OF LARRY LARISON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2021

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, my heart is heavy as I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Hoyt Humphreys "Larry" Larison, who passed away on December 11, 2020. My prayers are with Larry's family as we mourn his passing.

Born and raised in Montana, Larry was a lifelong member of the Pacific Northwest community who later planted his roots in Eastern Washington. This is how I got to know Larry as a leader and strong champion for education and entrepreneurship.

Larry committed his life to creating opportunities for the next generation of American leaders, serving on the Whitworth University School of Business Advisory Board in Spokane and sponsoring multiple annual scholarships for students across the region.

Larry was generous with not only his financial contributions but also his time and wisdom, playing an active role in various organizations throughout his life. He served as Chairman of the Republican National Committee Small Business Advisory Council under President Ronald Reagan, Director of Finance and Governance Committees for Spokane